(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Karnataka

1942. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is being implemented in Karnataka;

(b) if so, how many residential schools for girls have been set up in Karnataka under Kasturba Gandhi Swatantra Vidyalaya, a special scheme; and

(c) how many educationally backward blocks having low female literacy and predominant SC/ST population have been covered under the National Programme for Education of Girls at elementary level in Karnataka under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme of Kasturba Gandhi Swatantra Vidyalaya is yet to be approved by the Central Government.

(c) Proposals for Central assistance under the Programme are yet to be received from Government of Karnataka.

Educationally backward districts

†1943. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified educationally backward districts especially in SC/ST dominated areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government for the development of educationally backward districts during current Five Year Plan; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the details of fixed and achieved targets in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) The detailed breakup of Literacy Rates for these communities on the basis of 2001 Census have not yet been published by the Registrar General of India. However, on the basis of 1991 Census the details are as under:

(i) 146 districts have been identified as Educationally Backwards in 12 States having extremely low levels of female literacy rate (less than 10% in case of SCs/STs and less than 20% in case of general category). Concerned State Governments have been requesting for giving focussed attention in implementation of various schemes/ programmes and to draw up a time bound action plan to bridge the educational disparities.

(ii) Ministry of Tribal Affairs has identified 136 districts in the country having less than 10% ST female literacy.

(iii) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has identified 100 districts in the country having less than 10% SC female literacy.

(c) Major schemes/measures taken during the Ninth Five Year Plan have been continued in Tenth Five Year Plan that include:

(i) Relaxed norms for opening primary/middle schools.

(ii) Freeships/scholarships/fellowships; uniform, stationery, school bags etc.

(iii) Reservation of seats in admission in edcational institutions.

(iv) Relaxation in cut of marks in admissions/appointments.

(v) Priority to SCs & STs concentration areas, Operation Blackboard (OB), District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), Mahila Samakhya (MS), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), etc.

(vi) Residential schools, Educational Complexes in Low Literacy Pockets and Ashram Schools.

(vii) Hostels for SCs and STs.

(viii) Kasturba Gandhi Swatantrata Vidyalayas proposed to be implemented during Tenth Five Year Plan are to improve literacy among the women belonging to SCs & STs.

(ix) The scheme of National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) has been started as a component of SSA during Tenth Five Year Plan in Educationally Backward Blocks where rural female literacy is less than national average and gender gap is above the national average.

(x) Remedial and Special Coaching to improve academic skills.

(xi) Preparation of text books in tribal language.

(d) No separate targets are fixed under the schemes/programmes of the Ministry. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) adopts 'Zero Rejection Policy' so that no child is left out of the education system.

Child and women nutrition

†1944. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards news item appeared in the media regarding "Kuposhan Ki Maar";

(b) whether reasons for child-nutrition and the poor rate of woman-nutrition have been ascertained; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reasons for malnutrition among children and women have been ascertained by various organizations from time to time.

Malnutrition is reported to be an outcome of an interrelated set of factors ranging from food insecurity at the household level due to proverty and low purchasing power, ignorance of child feeding practices, poor access to health care, safe drinking water, sanitation and other social services, to high rate of population growth.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.